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100 houses under construction in Kyaukpandu

ACCORDING to the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department, a new village comprising of low-cost 100-house is being implemented with the border area development fund, under the instruction of the Vice President in Kyaukpandu village, Maungtaw township, in Maungtaw district of Rakhine State.

U Soe Lwin, deputy director of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department said, "The old Kyaukpandu village had 70 houses or so. Now, it is being expanded as the new village. In the new village, those from the old village and families from other township will be accommodated as per their



Workers are constructing houses in Kyaukpandu village. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

wishes at the expense of the State Budget. Those families need not pay any costs."

The low-cost 100-housed new village was launched since last March, targeted to spend K 650 million. The new village will include sites for a middle school, a market, a light industry, a mon-

astery, a police station, a lake, an office of the administrator, a dispensary and a sport ground, on the roadside of Maungtaw-Ahngu in southern Maungtaw. U Bo Than Htay, engineer-in-charge of Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department in Rakhine State said, "For the time

being, 40% had been finished. There were some difficulties of transport and labor problems. We cannot say exactly as to when it will be completed but we are making effort to finish it as soon as possible. It is expected to accommodate locals in these houses during this year."

The new village has a land of 21 acres, being implemented by 60 people including engineers. Now, 40% or so of the village had been constructed.

The house is a kind of Pre-cast type -60-40 ft. The roofs are corrugated iron sheets. It will cost K 65 lakhs per unit. And the district administrative office is making arrangements for granting land plots for the villagers to work on the farms. —Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alin) ■

Agricultural loans paid for farmers in Maungtaw Township

MYANMAR Agricultural Development Bank in Maungtaw paid loans for paddy cultivation to farmers Ks 150,000 per acre starting from 23 May, said U Tun Aung, manager of MADB to Myanmar News Agency. They are planning to pay loans for monsoon paddy cultivation to all farmers across the country from May to September.

"We arranged to pay loans for paddy cultivation for plots of 10 acres. We issued forms to village officials by scrutinizing and with the recommendation of officials about as to whether they are free from arrears", he said. Starting from 23 May



Farmers harvest rice in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

till now, 30 farmers in Maungtaw Township have got Ks 10 million of cultivation loans.

According to U Kyaw Lwin, Minister for Agriculture, Live-

stock, Forestry and Mining of Rakhine State government, there are totally 15,000 acres in Maungtaw and 110,00 acres in Buthidaung township, and among

them, people hold Form (7) and citizens card have been given out.

"We have already got the farm loans for this year. It is supported for agriculture. But we also have the difficulties of insufficient seeds and fertilizer", said a farmer in Maungtaw Township.

Maungtaw Township has a fertile land and high yield. As a priority, the government has already given budgets for agriculture and breeding sectors in Maungtaw, said U Kyaw Lwin. 1069 farmers from 18 village tracks in Maungtaw had got Ks 450 million at Ks 150,000 per acre in the former rainy season, according to MADB. —Min Thit (MNA) ■

Dhamma school committee in Shan State receives donations

A ceremony to receive donations for the multi-township Dhamma School Committee in southern Shan State was held on 28 May in Taunggyi City Hall.

In attendance were Sayadaws, members of Shan State government and Hluttaw, the Chief Justice of Shan State, senior military officers of the Eastern Command, officials from ministries, members of the Dhamma School and donors.

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa, followed by students from the Dhamma School entertaining with music and dance.



Dhamma School children attend the cash donation ceremony. **PHOTO: THURA LWIN (ECO)**

Later an official explained the workings of the Dhamma School on the overhead projector. This was followed by Sayadaws from the Dhamma School foundation and committee giving speeches.

Next, Dr. Aung Than Maung

of Religious Affairs, U Win Swe, Chairman of Shine Hope Company's Philanthropic sector delivered the opening speeches and Chairman of the Dhamma school committee, U San Linn gave words of thanks to the donors.

The donations were given in

the second half of the ceremony with Shine Hope Co. donating Ks100 million, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donating Ks100 million, U San Linn donating Ks50 million, and members of Shan State government and Hluttaw, the Chief Justice, the senior military officers of the Eastern Command and officials from ministries and other donors offering donations.

The Dhamma School Committee has conducted its 21st teachership training programme in townships in southern Shan State and produced 699 teachers.

The school also provided education for 16,500 students from Taunggyi and Loikaw. —Thura Lwin (Eco) ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Indian Army Staff, in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General receives Indian Army Chief

SENIOR GENERAL Min Aung Hlaing received General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army at Zeya Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. During the meeting, they discussed about

peace-making process in Myanmar and the role of the Tatmadaw in keeping stability and peace of the country. They also discussed about exchange of visits between the armed forces of the two countries, conducting

training, promoting cooperation in medicine and sports fields and promoting bilateral cooperation in bringing about security, peace and stability along the border of the two countries. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Stimulants seized in Buthidaung

A local border guard team detained a Thabyaytaung villager in possession of 230 stimulant tablets in Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State on Sunday evening.

Acting on a tip-off, Buth-

idaung border guard force searched a suspicious looking man named Ei Suu Ahdim from Thabyayataung village on Buthidaung-Kyauk Hla Pyin Road at about 4:30pm and found 230 WY stimulant

tablets. Ei Suu Ahdim admitted that his father U Ei Nu send him to give the drugs to another man at the entrance of Kyauk Hla Pyin village in Buthidaung.—Myanmar News Agency ■

37 points signed as part ...

FROM PAGE -7

Land and natural environmental sector agreement (29 May 2017)

1. A countrywide land policy that is balanced and support people centered long-term durable development.
 2. Based on justice and appropriateness
 3. A policy that reduce central control
 4. Include human rights, international, democracy and federal system norms in drawing up land policy.
 5. Policy on land matter should be transparent and clear.
 6. In setting up policy for land development, the desire of the local people is a priority and the main requirements of the farmers must be facilitated.
- Ownership Right
7. All nationals have a right to own and manage a land in accordance with the land law. Women and men have equal rights.
- Management Right
8. Both women and men have equal rights to manage the land ownership matters in accordance with the land law.
 9. If the land right granted for an original reason is not worked on in a specified period, the nation can withdraw the granted right and concede it to a person who will actually do the work.
- Preventive Program
10. To aim toward protecting and maintaining the natural environment and preventing damage and destruction of lands that were social, cultural, historical heritages and treasured by ethnic nationals. —(Unofficial Translation By GNLM)

Village tract chief killed in Buthidaung

TA HAE, who was in charge of the Meechaung Khaungswe village tract, was killed by a group of masked men on Sunday evening in Buthidaung township, Rakhine State.

According to investigators, Ta Hae was attacked by a group

of men wearing masks at about 4:30pm.

The victim was found dead with cuts to his eyebrows, lips and neck. Border guard police opened a case in accord with the law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

What is & Why Mining: A Perspective from Myanmar

FROM PAGE 8

These transformational changes in the supply chain of commodities can significantly change the ability of individual nations to convert land based mineral deposits to mineral resources and mineable reserves. Also, as happened in Europe, mineral resources had a critical role to play in the development story of their host nations. But the same deposits are not considered “mineral resources” today, due to changes in the societal values and aspiration towards environment, safety, security and employment etc. The best utility of a mineral occurrence to a nation is in the early stages of its growth story.

Mining in Myanmar has had a terrible history marked

by catastrophic accidents, unbridled environmental damage and associations with armed conflict while contributing only marginally to the national coffer. This resulted in policy makers today being suspicious - if not outright hostile - towards what they imagine to be what mining is”, although the dialogue of late has become encouragingly mature.

In 2014 mining industry of Myanmar produced USD1.2 billion worth of minerals (excluding oil & gas and gemstones) compared to the USD 8.1 billion, the number from Philippines. Comparing few factors such as known geology, total land area and the population density between Philippines and Myanmar, an extrapolation can be drawn that Myanmar



A wounded jungle, a tired father and two youngsters. They were captured in April 2017 within 1km from one another somewhere in Central Myanmar - in an area with right type of geology for economic mineralization. Aided by right policies, Mining can heal the jungle, give the father skills & pride, and the children much brighter future.

has the capacity to achieve several times higher mining related a revenue than Philippines.

There are factors critical

for that transition. Some are outside the control of MoNREC. On the part of MoNREC, the most important is clear regulations and efficient

enforcement. Strict standards must be combined with a speedy and streamlined permitting processes.

Mining in Myanmar should be encouraged and supported. It can play a tremendous role especially in the early stages of its journey to prosperity. ■

Jan Dharmabandu is a mining engineer and a Chartered Environmentalist attached to Perth based Ensys Consultants (with Yangon & Manila offices) having held mine development responsibilities in Australia, UK, France, Canada, Kazakhstan and SE Asia. He can be found on LinkedIn and via jan.dharmabandu@gmail.com